GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5641
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2000
PUNISHMENT TO PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIV/AIDS
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make suitable provision to punishment to persons found responsible for transmitting HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) & (b): No Sir. There is no such proposal under Government`s consideration.

(c): According to information received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, National AIDS Control Organisation, provision of punishment to HIV positive persons found responsible for transmitting HIV/AIDS would not be of much use because a large number of HIV infected persons remain asymptomatic for a long time during which they may not know their HIV status, though they could transmit the infection to others. Besides, the fear of punishment would drive the HIV positive persons underground and would deprive them of the benefits of counselling and other services under the programme. This would also lead to stigmatization and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS.